

"Oh, I wish I were a fish sometimes; they have such a happy, quiet life, and nobody tells them what to do," said Earl Wills. He was just talking to himself by the water cooler. His boss had just yelled at him for making a mistake on a report.

Earl stopped by the pet store on the way home from work. He needed to buy some fish food for the fish in his aquarium at home. Earl had always loved to watch the silent world of the fish through the glass because they seemed to have a simple life.

"Earl, stop fooling with those stupid fish and come in here and help me with this rug!" screamed his wife. She hated Earl's fish and took every chance to say mean things about them. "I will be there in a minute, dear, just as soon as I finish feeding my fish, if that's OK with you," said Earl.

"Earl, I want you to get rid of those fish in the morning before you go to work because if you don't, I will! I will just pour them out while you are at work," said his wife. Earl said he would return the fish to the pet shop on the way to work in the morning if his wife promised not to pour his little fish out while he was not looking.

The next morning, Earl gave the fish back to the pet shop owner with great sadness. That night his wife was so happy that Earl had finally given away his fish that she made him a big dinner and said nice things to him. After they had eaten dinner they decided to take a walk. They went out on the pier over the ocean, and Earl just stared down with a heavy heart because he still missed his little fish.

As he was looking down, part of the pier broke and Earl fell into the ocean. His wife ran for help screaming, "My husband can't swim! Somebody help me, please!"

Two men jumped in to save Earl but they could not find him. "Well, it serves him right for never learning to swim!" said his mean wife and she went home.

At the bottom of the ocean, Earl Wills had turned into a fish after all and was the happiest creature in the world. He would now have a happy and simple life like other fish, and he swam off to make new sea friends.

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